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EXHIBIT A. - VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

1. (Amended) A process for determining the presence or absence of an antimicrobial residue in a sample, which process comprises:
 - (i) contacting the sample with a test suitable for determining the presence or absence of an antimicrobial residue in the sample;
 - (ii) [treating the contacted sample and test for a sufficient time interval to inactive a] inactivating any natural disturbing compound present in the sample; [and] followed by
 - (iii) incubating the contacted sample and test, to determine whether microbial growth occurs,

whereby the absence of microbial growth indicates the presence of at least one antimicrobial residue.
2. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, [wherein the sample are contacted] which further includes contacting said sample with a thickening agent.
5. (Amended) A process according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein [in] step (ii) [the contacted sample and test are heated] heating the contacted sample and test for a sufficient time interval to inactivate natural disturbing substances present in the sample.
6. (Amended) A process according to claim 5, wherein [the contacted sample and test are heated] said heating is to a temperature of from 70°C to 100°C[, preferably the contacted sample and test are heated to a temperature from 75°C to 85°C].
7. (Amended) A process according to [claims 5 or 6] claim 5, wherein [the sample and test are heated] said heating is for from 2 to 20 minutes[, preferably wherein the sample and test are heated for from 10 to 15 minutes].

8. (Amended) A process according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the sample is a foodstuff, an animal body fluid, an animal tissue or an extract thereof.

10. (Amended) A process according to claim 8, wherein the animal tissue or an extract thereof is muscle, heart, liver or kidney or an extract thereof.

11. (Amended) A test kit for determining the presence or absence of an antimicrobial residue in a sample, which test kit comprises:

(i) a test suitable for determining the presence or absence of an antimicrobial residue in a sample; and

(ii) a sample wherein a natural inhibiting substance present in the sample [had] has been inactivated.